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UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

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COUNTRY SEMINARS IN AFRICA
ON THE WORLD AND AFRICAN PLANS DURING 1974-1978

Preparation of the World Plan (E/4962/Rev.1) and of the African Regional Plan for the Application of Science and Technology to Development (E/CN.14/579) was completed in 1971 and 1972 respectively, and the next important stage is that of promoting a wider knowledge of these plans. The importance of promoting the World and Regional Plans is emphasized by ECOSOC in its resolution 1717(LIII), General Assembly resolution 3017(XXVII) and by a draft resolution E/C.8/L.25/Rev.2 recommended to ECOSOC by the Committee on Science and Technology for Development. During its 17th Session, ACAST also stressed the need for holding seminars both in the developed and developing countries and considered this to be an efficient means of making the World and Regional Plans better known and understood by government officials and the scientific community. The programme of organizing country seminars on the World and African Plans represents, therefore, a response on the part of the United Nations to the various recommendations cited above.

The programme of country seminars in Africa on the World and African Plans has been initiated by the Office for Science and Technology, ESA, United Nations Headquarters. The Secretariat of the ECA is however collaborating with the Office for Science and Technology in the planning of these seminars and eventually in their organization. The first such seminar will be held in Egypt during November 1973; other seminars are envisaged in several African countries during 1974-1976.

The seminars will bring together government officials representing the various ministries, representatives of the scientific and technological community within each country for consultations with United Nations officials on the implementation of World and African Plans. They will provide an opportunity for the United Nations officials to introduce and describe the concepts and programmes of the WPA and the African Regional Plan to a select group of people who are themselves decision-makers in government and leaders in the scientific and technological community. It is also envisaged that the seminars would discuss the national priorities in science and technology and also the projects which each country might wish to propose for execution under the guidelines of the World Plan.

The Office for Science and Technology, United Nations Headquarters has already informed various African countries about the purpose of these seminars through their Permanent Missions to the United Nations. As a

result of those contacts two Governments, those of Egypt and Morocco, have already indicated acceptance of the idea of arranging country seminars. In Egypt, plans to hold such a seminar in November 1973 have already been concluded. Replies are still awaited from other member countries of the Commission.

It is envisaged that country seminars will be financed and organized by the countries themselves. However the Office for Science and Technology and the Economic Commission for Africa will, on request, assist with the organization and the actual running of the seminars.